



# *News from* **SALEM COUNTY**

## Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 23, 2011

### **SALEM COUNTY AFFECTED BY EAST COAST EARTHQUAKE**

(SALEM, NJ--Freeholder Director Lee R. Ware today released the following statement concerning the earthquake that affected the region at approximately 1:51 PM on Tuesday, August 23, 2011:

“We were all startled by the earthquake which affected our region. We have had no reports of injury as a result of the quake; however, as you would expect the County received numerous calls to our 911 center and other emergency contacts. PSEG did declare an unusual event as of 2:00 PM today, which is procedural given the nature of this situation, but no protective actions are required. We are currently monitoring the situation and coordinating any needed response among emergency management personnel. We have been advised that aftershocks are possible. Accordingly, we urge all of our residents to exercise caution. Please call 911 for emergencies only.”

County offices are operating regularly.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the following should be done in the event of another earthquake:

Once the shaking stops, check for injuries among your family and neighbors and, as needed, administer first aid and call for emergency medical assistance. Also check for hazards in and around your home created by earthquake damage. Keep in mind that aftershocks may strike at any time, exacerbating these hazards and requiring you to immediately drop, cover, and hold on.

Responding promptly to hazards can prevent further damage and injuries. This may entail extinguishing small fires or reporting larger blazes; shutting off the water supply when broken pipes are leaking; shutting off the electricity when damaged wiring threatens to spark fires; shutting off the natural gas when you suspect that gas is leaking; or evacuating your home when any of these hazards or others, such as structural damage, make continued occupancy potentially unsafe.

Regardless of the severity of this earthquake, learn from the experience. If there are things that you could have done better in preparing for this quake, do them better now in preparation for the next earthquake. If your home must be repaired or rebuilt, for example, use this opportunity to correct any structural weaknesses and ensure compliance with seismic building standards. If unsecured belongings were damaged, improve how you secure your home's contents. If your emergency supply kit proved inadequate, use what you learned to make a kit that will better meet your needs.